

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Tim Hovendick, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present. It was noted that Mr. Behlen has resigned from the committee. A new producer member will be sought out.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of November 4 & 6, 2024, were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Schulz/Perlock to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg and CEDAR Corp Planner Josh Miller presented a proposal to fund a Preliminary Housing Needs Assessment for the Historic Weinbrenner Shoe Company Property Redevelopment project in Marshfield. By conducting this study now, it will hopefully help target specific development for the property. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to release \$6,500 of REDI funding to fund the Preliminary Housing Needs Assessment noted above. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Last month the committee approved the appropriation of \$5,000 for the marketing of the Yellowstone Industrial Park in Marshfield. MACCI Executive Director Karen Olson and City of Marshfield Communications Director Tom Loucks, along with Grueneberg highlighted the status of the video being produced by Marshfield Communications. Of the \$5,000 allocated, only \$2,500 will be needed. The project should be completed by the end of the year.
7. South Wood County Airport Manager Jeremy Sickler gave the committee a report on the 2024 activities of the airport and requested the release of budgeted Economic Development funds in the amount of \$15,000. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to release the funds as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Extension Area Director Solin reviewed the position description for the now-vacant Human Development & Relationship Educator. The posting will be going out in January and will hopefully be filled by the end of March.
9. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig reported on the Land and Water Conservation Board hearing held in Madison the previous day and that they approved the 2025 Land & Water Resource Management Plan as presented. The next step is county board approval, via resolution that was presented for action. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Wucherpennig presented a resolution amending the 2024 Land Conservation MDV budget to account for additional revenue, and subsequent expenditures. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration.
11. The fall newsletter for the Land & Water Conservation Dept. was reviewed by the committee. The annual tree and shrub order form is included in the document.
12. Wucherpennig updated the committee on the ongoing violations for the non-metallic mining (waiting on the DNR for wetlands determination) and the manure runoff violation (court date coming up in January).
13. Wucherpennig report on recent allocations of ARPA dollars made by the ARPA Adhoc Committee, which included funding for LWCD. More information on the use of those dollars will be forthcoming for committee action.
14. County Surveyor Kevin Boyer presented the 2024 activities report for projects completed this calendar year. He noted an issue with one surveyor who does not follow proper procedures in reporting his surveys. Grueneberg concurred with this observation stating the issue has gotten worse over the year. Boyer will be taking this issue to their respective professional board for adjudication and decision, which the committee stated they were in full support of.
15. Grueneberg presented a two-year contract extension for Boyer to continue as County Surveyor with an increase in the contracted amount that was approved during the budget process. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the 2-year contract with Boyer in the amount of \$13,520/year. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Grueneberg provided an update on the hosting of the Wisconsin Connecting Entrepreneurial Committees Conference being held in Wisconsin Rapids in June of 2025. This two day conference will attract over 250 attendees. Wisconsin Rapids beat out 8 other communities vying to host this conference.
17. Leichtnam requested a per diem for attending the Land & Water Resource Board meeting in Madison the previous day. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the per diem as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
18. Due to the holiday, the next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 9:00 AM.
19. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(c) to conduct performance evaluations on department heads the committee oversees. Motion carried unanimously.
20. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.
21. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

**Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
December 4, 2024**

NAME	REPRESENTING
JEFF PERKOVIC	WCB #11
Bill Clandening	WCB #15
Jason Groeneberg	P+Z
Dennis Polach	WCB-14
Russ Perlock	WCB-4
Wayne Schulz	WCB #1
Karen Olson	MACCI / City
Josh Miller	City of Marshfield
Tina Hovendick	WCB #5
Kim McGrath	HR
Jeremy Solin	Extension
Shane Wachterpennig	LWCD
Jeremy Sickler	So Wood County Airport
Victoria Wilson (WebEx)	P+Z
Ed Newton (WebEx)	Finance
Barb Peeters (WebEx)	LWCD
Sue Smith (WebEx)	Health
Lance Pliml (WebEx)	CB Chair
Julie Mancl (WebEx)	P+Z